

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4551

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4139

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL PINT KS US

SUBJECT: GREGEROY HENDERSON CASE

REF: SEOUL 4025

1. COVERAGE OF HENDERSON CASE IN NEWS COLUMNS OF SEOUL DAILIES DROPPED OFF SHARPLY ON JUNE 22. USIS PRESS SOURCES DESCRIBE EVENTS LEADING UP TO CUT-OFF AS FOLLOWS:
2. ON JUNE 19, ORIENT PRESS, (OP), WHICH HAS CONTRACT WITH UPI, RECEIVED UPI STORY DATED MEDFORD, MASS. INTER ALIA STORY QUOTED HENDERSON AS SAYING THAT WHILE HE WAS IN KOREA HE "VOLUNTEERED TO TURN OVER TO THE KOREAN NATIONAL MUSEUM ANY ARTICLES THAT MIGHT BE OF HISTORICAL IMPORT BUT THAT NONE WAS REQUESTED."
3. THESE SOURCES FURTHER REPORT THAT UNIDENTIFIED "ROK G AUTHORITIES" ON JUNE 20 ORDERED OP TO REWRITE THAT PORTION OF THE STORY AS FOLLOWS: HENDERSON DISCLOSED THAT, "NO PIECE OF MINE WAS EVER LISTED IN THE LIST OF NATIONAL TREASURES" AND THAT HE WOULD VOLUNTARILY RETURN TO THE KOREAN NATIONAL MUSEUM ANY ARTICLES REQUESTED IF THEY ARE OF HISTORICAL VALUE, BUT NONE HAS BEEN REQUESTED.

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4. UNACCOUNTABLY, THIS OP ALTERATION OF UP COPY WAS

NOT PICKED UP BY SEOUL PAPERS ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS IN  
FOURTH KOREAN LANGUAGE OP BULLETIN DISTRIBUTED TO  
NEWSPAPERS AT ABOUT 2:00 PM ON JUNE 20.

5. ON JUNE 21 A REPRESENTATIVE OF ROK COUNTER  
INTELLIGENCE CORPS (CIC) APPREARED IN OFFICES OF  
GOVERNMENT'S SEOUL SHINMUN WITH A SECOND REWRITE OF  
UPI STORY AND ORDERED PAPER TO PRINT IT THAT DAY WITH  
UPI LOGOTYPE APPEARING. THIS VERSION STATED  
MR. HENDERSON...SAID "IF HE (LEE SOON-GUN  
PRESIDENT OF KCPPA) POINTS OUT ANY ARTICLES THAT MIGHT  
BE OF HISTORICAL VALUE AND ASKS FOR THEIR RETURN, I  
WILL VOLUNTARILY TURN THEM OVER TO THE KOREAN  
NATIONAL MUSEUM."

6. THIS STORY APPEARED IN SEOUL SHINMUN ONLY AT ABOUT  
NOON JUNE 21. USIS PRESS SOURCES STATE THAT THIS  
SIGNALLED END OF HENDERSON CASE BECAUSE BY  
VOLUNTEERING TO RETURN PIECES, HENDERSON HAD "SURRENDERED  
TO ROK".

7. COMMENT: PRESS SOURCES SPECULATE THAT SHARP DROP  
IN NEWS REPORTING THIS CASE, INDICATES ROKG MAY HAVE  
RECOGNIZED FACT THAT POLITICAL MOTIVATION AND GOVERNMENT  
ROLE IN KCPPA DEMANDS OF HENDERSON WAS BECOMING TOO  
OBVIOUS AND THREATENED POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT TO ROKG.  
GOVERNMENT MAY ALSO SIMPLY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT FOR TIME  
BEING AT LEAST IT HAD NOT SUCCEEDED IN INTIMIDATING  
HENDERSON AND HAD OBTAINED ALL THE POLITICAL MILEAGE  
IT WAS GOING TO GET.

8. APART FROM ITS MOTIVATIONS, WE FIND DISTURBING  
LENGTHS TO WHICH ROKG MAY HAVE GONE TO TURN OFF  
REPORTING. OP REWRITE OF UPI STORY, CLEARLY ALTERING  
TENSE OF HENDERSON QUOTE, MAY BE BREACH OF OP'S  
CONTRACT WITH UPI AND, IN ANY CASE, IS CLEAR BREACH  
OF PRACTICE EVEN IF DONE UNDER DURESS. SECOND CIC RE-  
WRITE AND CIC ORDER TO SEOUL SHINMUN TO CARRY STORY  
WITH UP LOGO ATTACHED IS EVEN MORE SERIOUS

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9. OP AND CIC REWRITES OF UPI KNOWN TO ONLY FEW LOCAL  
JOURNALISTS HERE BUT THEY ARE DISCUSSING THIS  
AMONG SELVES. UPI NEW YORK MAY GET WIND OF EPISODE  
AND FEEL BOUND TO MAKE SOME SORT OF PROTEST WHICH  
COULD BECOME TUBLIC.  
HABIB

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## Message Attributes

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